

CLAIMS

1. A computer system for preparing a digital image, comprising:

computer processing means;

window means for viewing the digital image;

means for positioning the image within said window means;

means for shrinking or enlarging said image to alter its fit within said viewing window

means;

means for saving to storage the portion of the image appearing in said window means.

2. In a computer system having a monitor, a CPU, and a pointing device, a method for preparing a digital image, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a viewport window for viewing the digital image on said computer monitor, said viewport having a fixed height and width;

(b) importing said image into said viewport;

(c) comparing the height and width of said image to the height and width of said viewport, and if either the height or width dimension of said image is smaller than the corresponding dimension of said viewport, automatically enlarging said image proportionately such that both the height and width of the image are equal to or greater than the corresponding viewport dimension;

(d) if the image is positioned and sized within the viewport as desired by the user, go to step (j);

(e) comparing the height and width of said image to the height and width of said viewport, and if either the height or width of said image is greater than the corresponding dimension of said viewport, selectively positioning said image within said viewport by dragging said image into position with a click-and-drag operation of said pointing device;

- (f) if the image is positioned and sized within the viewport as desired by the user, go to step (j);
- (g) if both the height and width of said image are larger than the corresponding viewport dimensions, proportionately shrinking the entire image by a small percentage, but never shrinking said image such that either the height or width of the image becomes less than the respective height or width of the viewport;
- (h) if the image is positioned and sized within the viewport as desired by the user, go to step (j)
- (i) repeating steps (e) through (h) in any order or combination until the image is positioned and sized within the viewport as desired by the user; and
- (j) entering an "accept" command into the computer to crop the image to eliminate any portion of the image lying outside the viewport and save the portion of the image displayed in the viewport as a new image.

3. In a computer system having a monitor, a CPU, and a pointing device, a method for preparing a digital image, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a viewport window for viewing the digital image on said computer monitor, said viewport having a fixed height and width;
- (b) importing said image into said viewport;
- (c) comparing the height and width of said image to the height and width of said viewport, and performing one of the following steps:
 - i. if either the height or width dimension of said image is smaller than the corresponding dimension of said viewport, automatically enlarging said image proportionally such that both the height and width of the image are equal to or greater than the corresponding viewport dimension;

- ii. if the height or width of said image is larger than the corresponding viewport dimensions, automatically proportionately shrink the entire image until at least one of the dimensions is equal to the corresponding dimension of said viewport;
- iii. if the height and width of said image are the same as the corresponding viewport dimensions, do nothing;

(d) automatically generating an "accept" command into the computer to crop the image to eliminate any portion of the image lying outside the viewport and save the portion of the image displayed in the viewport as a new image.

4. A computer system for generating sentences about a selected item contained in a computer database, comprising:

computer processing means having access to said database;

means for entering and storing data within said computer processing means; and

means for generating at least one sentence from said data;

5. A computer system for generating sentences as claimed in Claim 4, further including:

means for placing a plurality of said sentences into order to form a narrative story.

6. A computer system for generating sentences as claimed in Claim 5, further including:

means for editing said story.

7. A computer system for generating sentences as claimed in Claim 5, further including:

means for altering the order of said sentences in said narrative story.

8. A method for generating sentences about an item contained in a computer database, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing at least one of the following:
 - (i) pre-defined sentences containing variables corresponding to field names or field values in the database; and
 - (ii) tailored algorithms for counting, evaluating, or analyzing certain field values;
- (b) providing data contained within said fields in said database by:
 - (i) entering said data into the database, or
 - (ii) accessing existing data from said database; and
- (c) generating one or more descriptive sentences based upon said data.

9. A method for generating sentences as claimed in Claim 8, wherein said sentences are placed into order in a narrative story.

10. The method for generating a narrative story as claimed in Claim 9, further including the steps of:

- (d) providing interface components containing captions or phrases;
- (e) providing at least one of the following:
 - (i) pre-defined sentences containing variables corresponding to captions or phrases of selected interface components; and
 - (ii) tailored algorithms for counting, evaluating, or analyzing certain interface component settings;
- (f) providing user access to said interface components; and
- (g) generating at least one descriptive sentence based upon said interaction with said interface components.

11. The method for generating a narrative story as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said descriptive sentences are generated in response to a "generate" command.
12. The method for generating a narrative story as claimed in Claim 9, further including the steps of:
- (h) providing the capability of editing the narrative story manually; and
 - (i) entering an "accept" command to save the edited version of the story.
13. The method for generating a narrative story as claimed in Claim 9, wherein re-entering the "generate" command will alter said narrative order of said sentences.
14. The method for generating a narrative story as claimed in Claim 12, further including the step of:
- (j) allowing the user the option to re-open the saved version of the story to further edit the story.
15. The method for generating a narrative story as claimed in Claim 12, wherein said editing may be accomplished by any combination of the following steps:
- (a) manually typing changes into the story;
 - (b) changing field values in the database; and
 - (c) modifying interface component values.